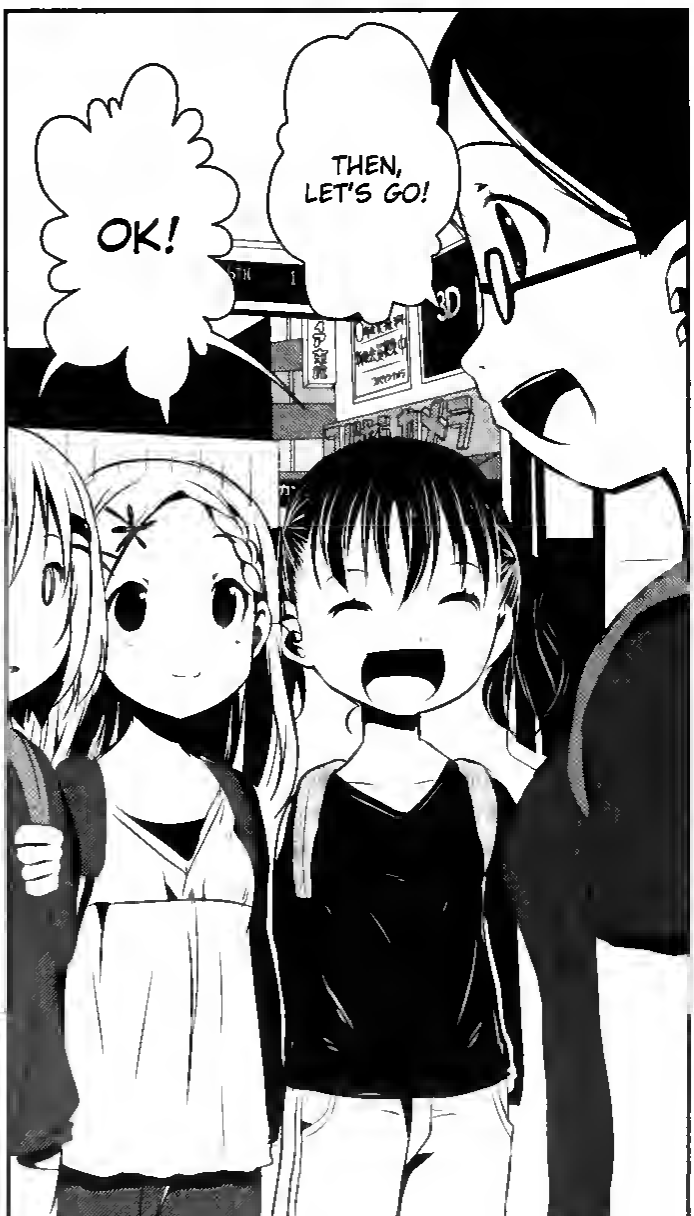
SHINJUKU STATION SOUTH ENTRANCE BUS TERMINAL
I'VE GOT OUR TICKETS!
IS EVERYONE READY?
YES!

AT LAST
WE'RE HEADED TO FUJISAN

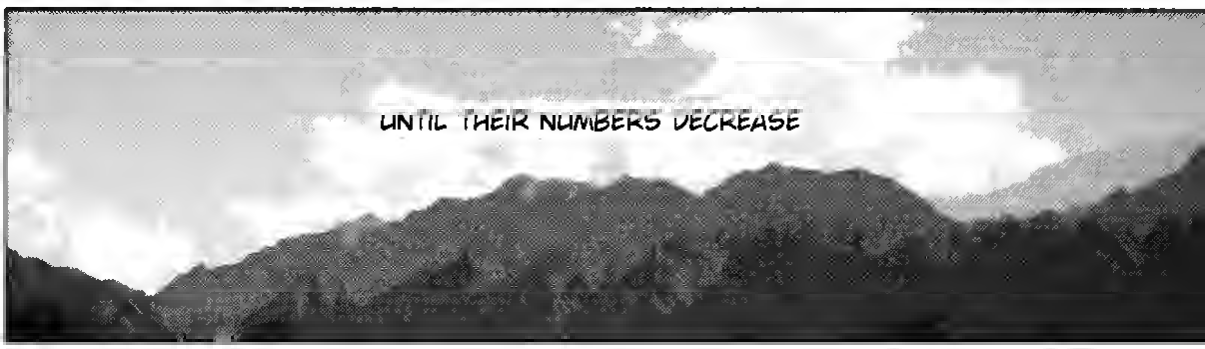

THEN, LET'S GO!
OK!

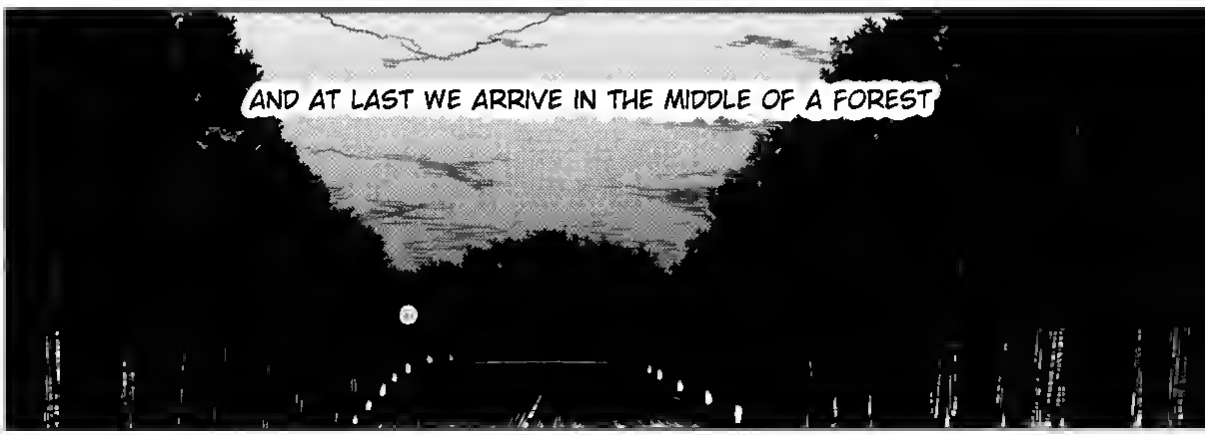
JUST A BUS RIDE AWAY
FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AND LOOKING FORWARD TO

19TH CLIMB: OUR FIRST NIGHT CLIMB

NIGHT CLIMBING
WITH NOTHING LIKE STREETLIGHTS, CLIMBING MOUNTAINS AT NIGHT MEANS YOU NEED TO RELY ON MOONLIGHT OR HEAD LAMPS. THIS CAN BE SCARIER THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.

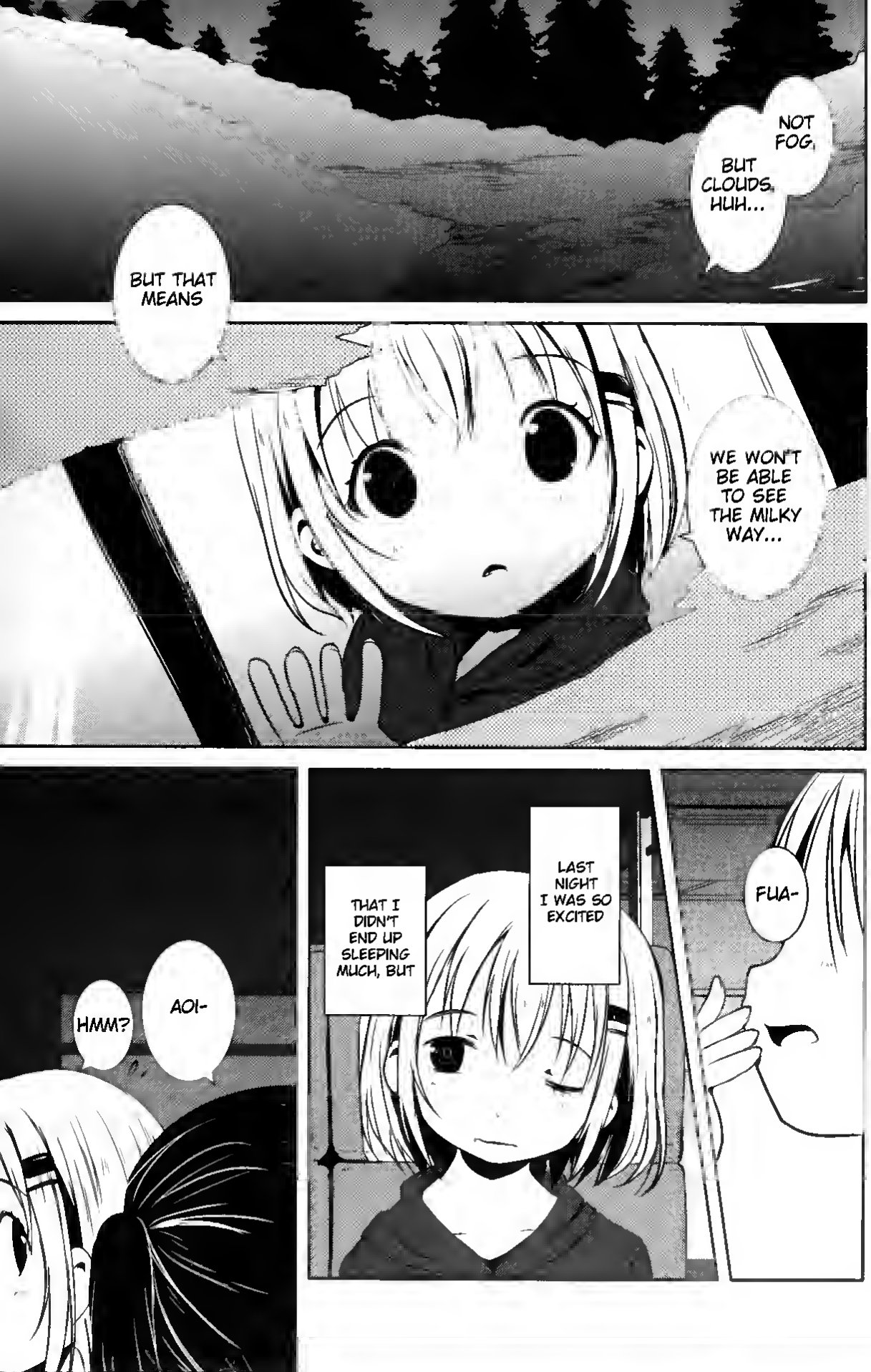
WE SPEED ALONG THE HIGHWAY
BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS


UNTIL THEIR NUMBERS DECREASE


AND AT LAST WE ARRIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST

FOG...

TODAY'S FORECAST IS CLOUDY WITH SOME SUN


NOT FOG, BUT CLOUDS. HUH...
BUT THAT MEANS
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE MILKY WAY...
FUA-
LAST NIGHT I WAS SO EXCITED
THAT I DIDN'T END UP SLEEPING MUCH, BUT
AOI-
HMM?

IS THAT FUJISAN?
HMM? WHERE?
THAT VAGUE SHAPE, THERE-

ぼや～～…
RIGHT THERE?
AND JUST LIKE THAT, I'M NOT TIRED
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS

WE'RE HERE!
…!?

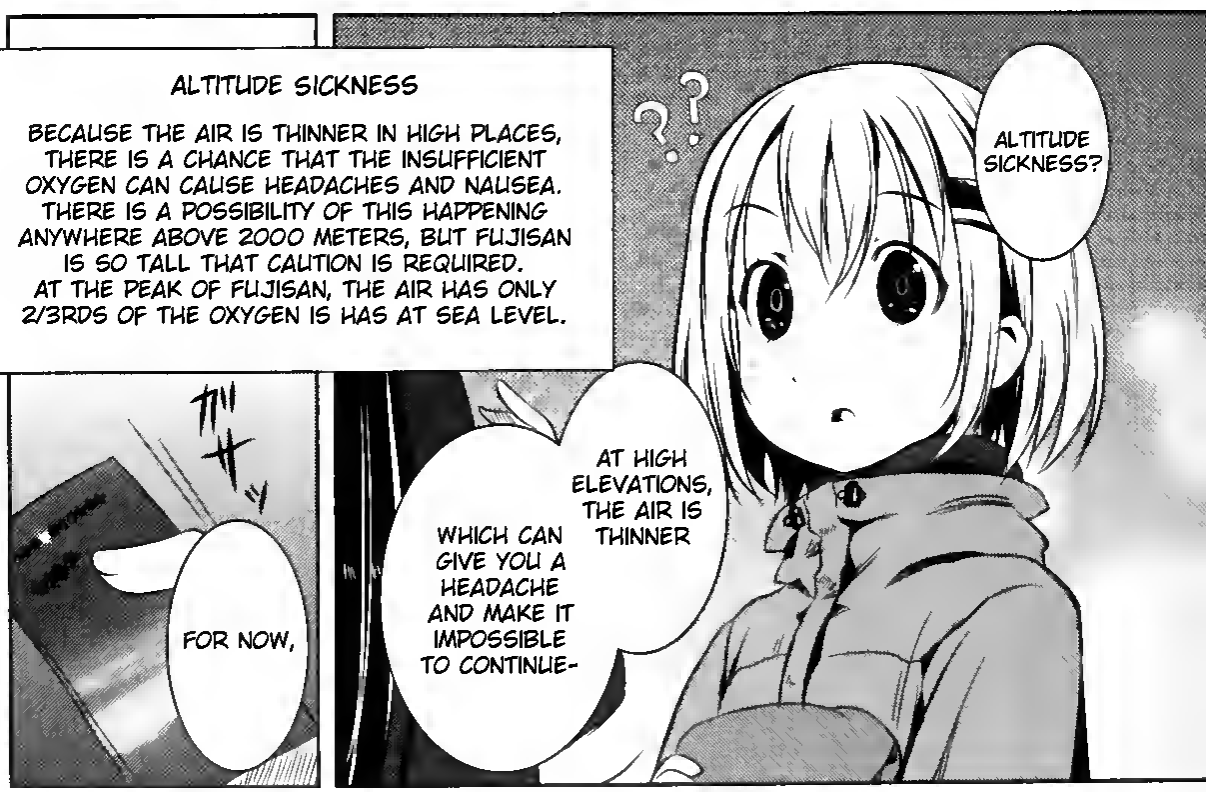
プシュー!
PUSHUU-

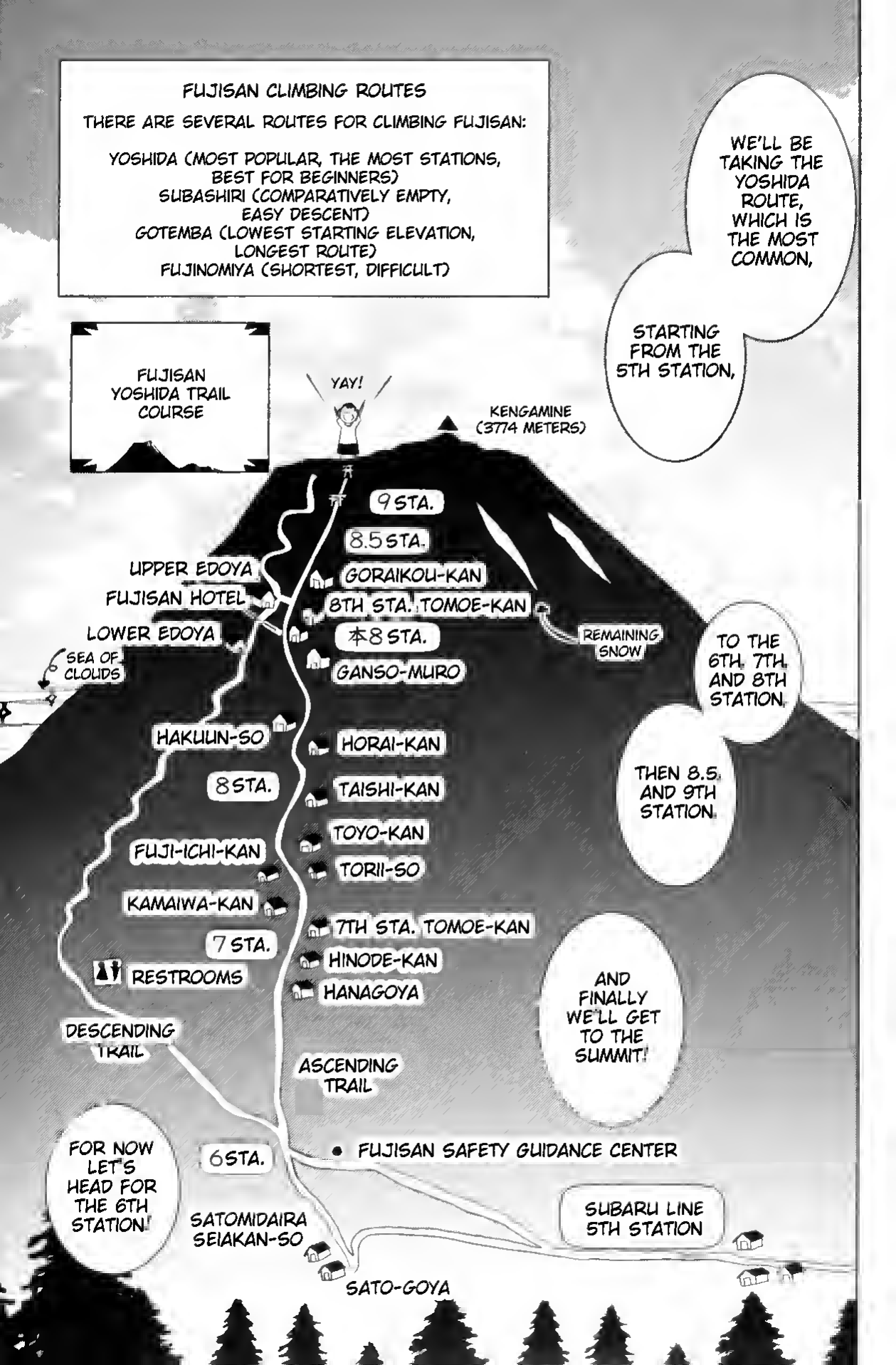
S-
SO DARK!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL...
THAT'S ODD, WAS FUJISAN THIS DARK?
STARTED IN THE EVENING LAST TIME
HMM
CAN'T SEE THE SIGN
I CAN'T TELL WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO...
FOR NOW, LET'S GO AHEAD AND CHECK OUT THE SHOP!

AH- THAT'S A RELIEF
FOR NOW, LET'S TAKE A LITTLE BREAK INSIDE
FUJISAN HAS A HIGH ELEVATION, SO THERE'S A CHANCE OF GETTING ALTITUDE SICKNESS
SO, WE'LL GET USED TO THE ELEVATION HERE AT THE TRAILHEAD!
THE ELEVATION HERE IS 2500 METERS!

ALTITUDE SICKNESS

BECAUSE THE AIR IS THINNER IN HIGH PLACES, THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THE INSUFFICIENT OXYGEN CAN CAUSE HEADACHES AND NAUSEA. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF THIS HAPPENING ANYWHERE ABOVE 2000 METERS, BUT FUJISAN IS SO TALL THAT CAUTION IS REQUIRED. AT THE PEAK OF FUJISAN, THE AIR HAS ONLY 2/3RDS OF THE OXYGEN IS HAS AT SEA LEVEL.


ALTITUDE SICKNESS?
??
AT HIGH ELEVATIONS, THE AIR IS THINNER
WHICH CAN GIVE YOU A HEADACHE AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE-
FOR NOW,


FUJISAN CLIMBING ROUTES
THERE ARE SEVERAL ROUTES FOR CLIMBING FUJISAN:
YOSHIDA (MOST POPULAR, THE MOST STATIONS, BEST FOR BEGINNERS)
SUBASHIRI (COMPARATIVELY EMPTY, EASY DESCENT)
GOTEMBA (LOWEST STARTING ELEVATION, LONGEST ROUTE)
FUJINOMIYA (SHORTEST, DIFFICULT)
WE'LL BE TAKING THE YOSHIDA ROUTE, WHICH IS THE MOST COMMON,
STARTING FROM THE 5TH STATION,
FUJISAN YOSHIDA TRAIL COURSE
YAY!
KENGAMINE (3774 METERS)
9 STA.
8.5 STA.
UPPER EDOYA
GORAIKOU-KAN
FUJISAN HOTEL
8TH STA. TOMOE-KAN
LOWER EDOYA
本8 STA.
REMAINING SNOW
SEA OF CLOUDS
GANSO-MURO
TO THE 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH STATION,
HAKUUN-SO
HORAI-KAN
8 STA.
TAISHI-KAN
THEN 8.5, AND 9TH STATION.
TOYO-KAN
FUJI-ICHI-KAN
TORII-SO
KAMAIWA-KAN
7TH STA. TOMOE-KAN
7 STA.
HINODE-KAN
RESTROOMS
HANAGOYA
AND FINALLY WE'LL GET TO THE SUMMIT!
DESCENDING TRAIL
ASCENDING TRAIL
FOR NOW LET'S HEAD FOR THE 6TH STATION!
6 STA.
FUJISAN SAFETY GUIDANCE CENTER
SUBARU LINE 5TH STATION
SATOMIDAIRA SEIAKAN-SO
SATO-GOYA

ANYWAYS, WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
A SOUVENIR SHOP?
OH- THIS IS SO CUTE!
I WANT ONE...
1200円
BUY IT ON THE WAY BACK!
AH... RIGHT!
I DON'T WANT TO CARRY IT
RIGHT, WE'RE NOT EVEN CLIMBING YET

WELL, WE'RE GONNA KEEP GOING ANYWAY!
ISN'T THIS KINDA SCARY?
1 HOUR LATER
UMM...
IT'S PITCH BLACK
BADUM BADUM
BADUM BADUM
ナッ

DARK
NOTHING BUT DARK
NOTHING LIKE THE DARK IN THE CITY
I CAN'T SEE A SINGLE THING
UP
DOWN
I CAN HARDLY TELL THEM APART
LIKE THIS

AND, NOTHING MAKES A SOUND
IT'S AN UNPLEASANT SILENCE
LIKE MY BODY WILL BE SUCKED INTO THE DARK
THIS IS THE NATURAL NIGHT, BEYOND THE TOUCH OF HUMANS
IT'S...

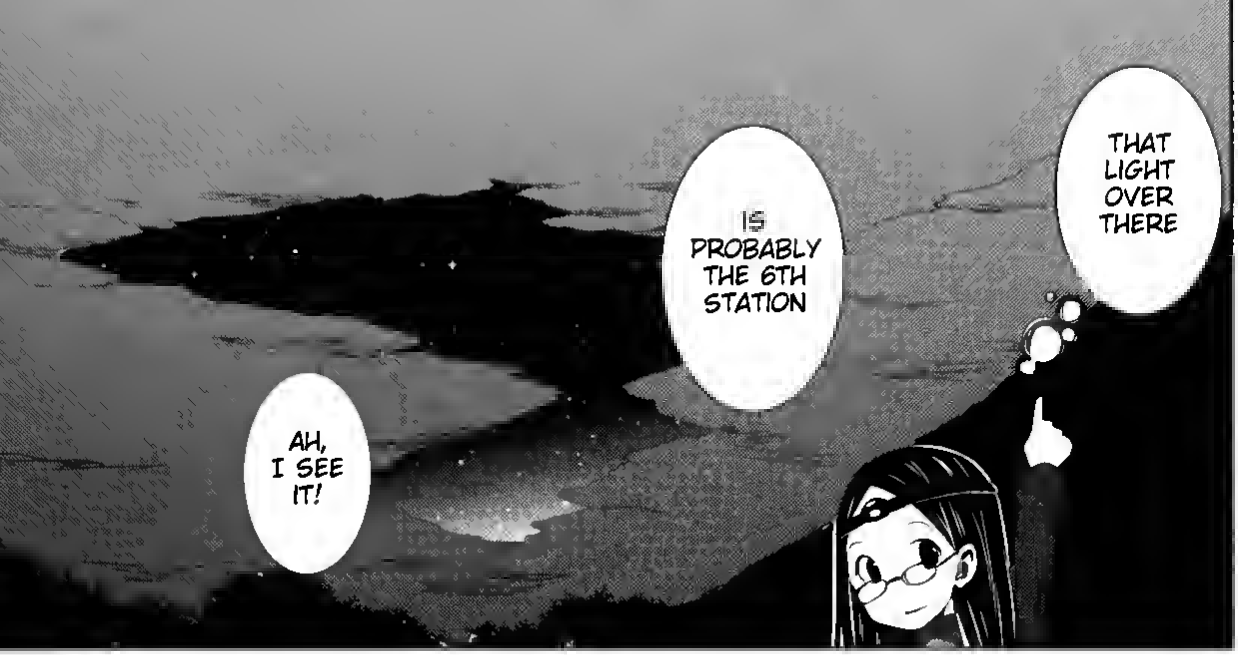
SCARY
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AOI-SAN,
WOULD IT BE OK IF WE HELD HANDS?
HUH?
AH,

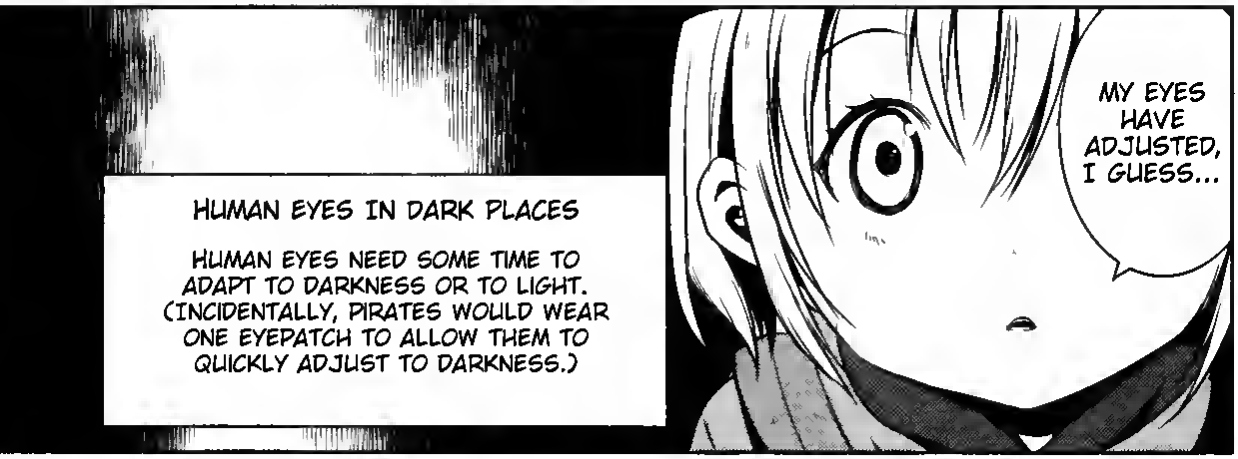
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!
TH- THAT'S FINE!
SCARY, ISN'T IT...
IT IS... WITH THE FOG WRAPPED AROUND US
THAT'S RIGHT EVERYONE'S A LITTLE SCARED...
WH- WHAT!!
A LOT SCARED
AOI!

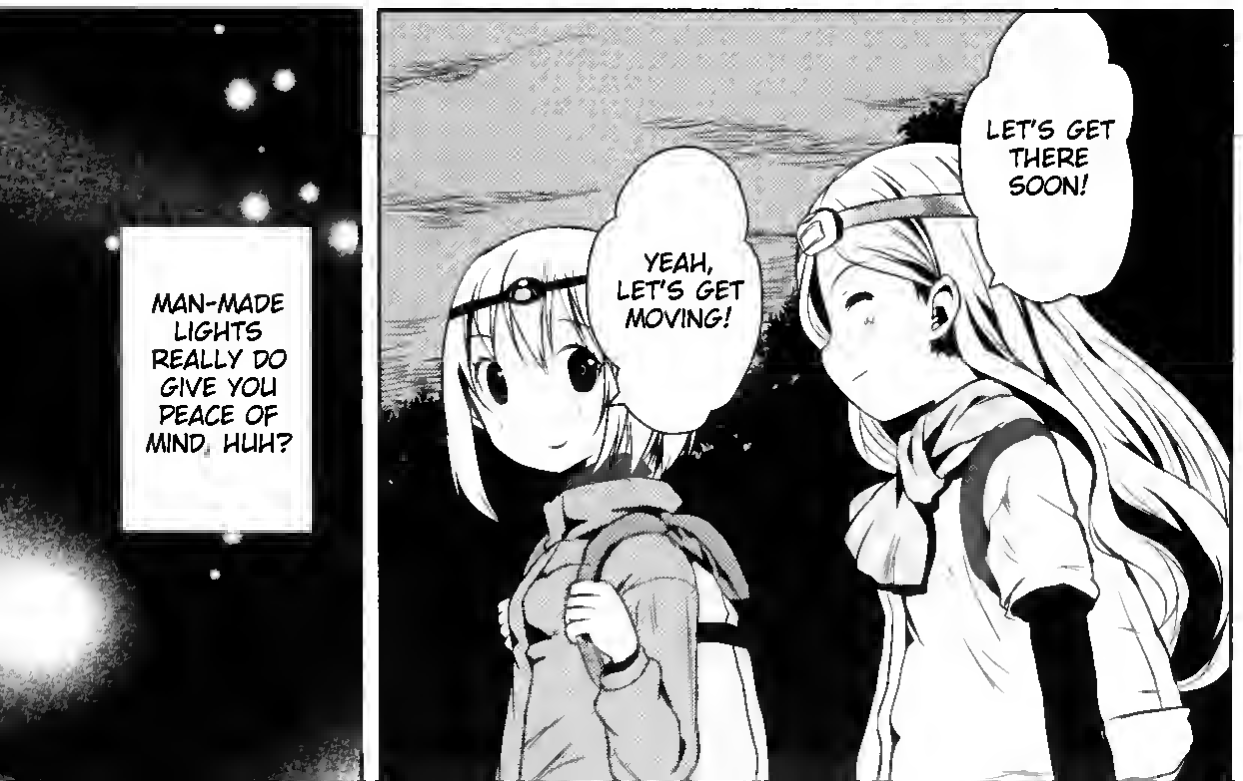
OVER THERE,
THAT'S THE LIGHT FROM THE CITY, ISN'T IT?

…

THE SKY... IS ALL LIT UP
AMAZING-
IT'S SO PRETTY...
SO THIS IS THE SO CALLED SEA OF CLOUDS...
LOOK, EVERYONE!
?


THAT LIGHT OVER THERE
IS PROBABLY THE 6TH STATION
AH, I SEE IT!


HUMAN EYES IN DARK PLACES
HUMAN EYES NEED SOME TIME TO ADAPT TO DARKNESS OR TO LIGHT. (INCIDENTALLY, PIRATES WOULD WEAR ONE EYEPATCH TO ALLOW THEM TO QUICKLY ADJUST TO DARKNESS.)
MY EYES HAVE ADJUSTED, I GUESS...


MAN-MADE LIGHTS REALLY DO GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND, HUH?
YEAH, LET'S GET MOVING!
LET'S GET THERE SOON!

AH, THAT WAS SCARY!
NOW DO YOU SEE WHY PEOPLE NORMALLY DON'T LIKE TO CLIMB AT NIGHT?
THIS IS ACTUALLY THE FUJISAN SAFETY GUIDANCE CENTER
WE'RE HERE!
SO THIS IS THE 6TH STATION?
I WAS AT MY LIMIT (NERVOUS LAUGH)
I'M REALLY GLAD I WAS WITH EVERYONE!
BUT
IT WAS SCARY, OF COURSE I WAS SCARED!
KAEDE-SAN, EVEN YOU WERE SCARED?

FROM HERE ON, THERE ARE LOTS OF MOUNTAIN HUTS, SO WE'LL BE FINE!
A TRAIL OF MANY LIGHTS
THOSE ARE ALL PEOPLE AND HUTS
LET'S GO
I'LL DEFINITELY BE FINE LIKE THIS- I CAN DO THIS

4 TRAILS AT NIGHT

CLIMBING AT NIGHT IS GENERALLY NOT POPULAR - AND THE REASON IS THE DARKNESS. THE DARKNESS IN THE MOUNTAINS, ESPECIALLY BELOW THE TREE LINE, CAN DECEIVE YOUR EYES MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE, AND YOUR FIELD OF VIEW IS NARROWED. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE RISK OF LOSING THE TRAIL IS GREATLY INCREASED.

WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE YOUR OWN FEET, WITHOUT A HEADLAMP JUST WALKING IS QUITE DIFFICULT. FURTHERMORE BECAUSE THERE IS NO SOUND, YOUR SENSE OF FEAR IS STRENGTHENED. THIS IS WHY PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE DURING THE DAY, AND AT NIGHT, MOST LIVING THINGS ARE ASLEEP. HUMAN BODIES AREN'T MADE TO SATISFACTORILY PERFORM NIGHTTIME ACTIVITIES.

WHEN I CLIMBED FUJISAN, I MARVELED AT HOW HUMANS ARE ABLE TO CREATE LIGHT IN ORDER TO CONTINUE WORKING THROUGH THE NIGHT. (THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO DON'T GET SCARED WHILE WALKING TO THE 6TH STATION.)

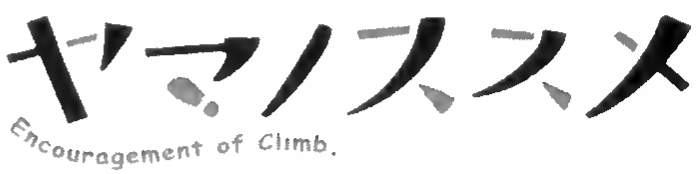
IT WAS ON THE FUJISAN TRAIL SOMEWHAT ABOVE THE TREE LINE THAT I WAS HANDED THIS INSIGHT - IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT CLIMBING AT NIGHT WAS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY HEADLAMPS, AS LARGE NUMBERS OF THEM SHONE ON THE TRAIL. AT FIRST MY EYES DIDN'T ADJUST, BUT AS THEY DID I WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE CLIMBING ONLY BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON. THEN, SPREADING WIDE OVER MY VAGUE FEARS, WAS THE STAR FILLED SKY.

ON FUJISAN, IT SEEMS LIKE THE LIGHT COMING FROM TOKYO WOULD BE A BOTHER, BUT WHEN YOU SEE IT YOU'LL BE LEFT SPEECHLESS. THE SEA OF CLOUDS, SPREAD WIDE BELOW, IS DECORATED FOR US BY THE LIGHT COMING FROM THE CITIES. IT'S A SITUATION WHERE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE COLD, YOUR FEET WILL INVOLUNTARILY STOP YOU TO LOOK.

SINCE THE 5TH STATION IS SO CLOSE TO THE CITY AND YOU CAN DRIVE TO IT, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BRING A CAMERA AND TRIPOD JUST TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE STARRY SKY.

INCIDENTALLY, I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT IN THE AUSTRALIAN DESERT, IT'S SO DARK THAT YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON WHEN YOUR EYES ADJUST.

YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GROUND AND TREES (SWEAT)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Encouragement of Climb.